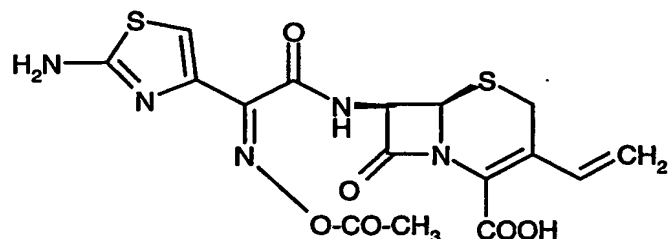


**Claims**

1. A compound of formula I



in the form of a crystalline salt.

2. A compound according to claim 1 in crystalline salt form, characterised in that the crystalline salt is a salt with a sulfonic or phosphonic acid or a salt with sulfuric or sulfamic acid, as the hydrogen sulfate, sulfate or sulfamate, or a salt with phosphoric acid, as the phosphate, or a salt with hydrochloric acid, as the hydrochloride.
3. A compound according to claim 2, characterised in that the acid is an acid of formula II

HX

II

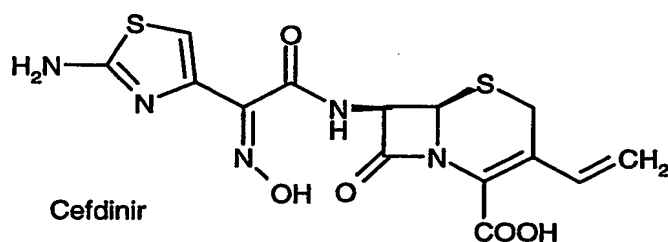
in which X signifies Cl<sup>-</sup>, HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, R<sub>1</sub>YO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, H<sub>2</sub>NSO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, ½ (SO<sub>4</sub>)<sup>2-</sup> wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is alkyl or optionally substituted aryl and

Y signifies S or P.

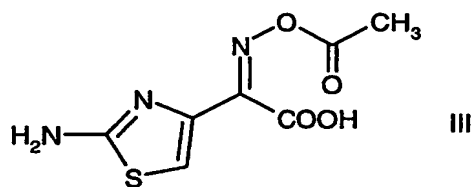
4. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the crystalline salt is a p-toluenesulfonate, methanesulfonate, hydrogen sulfate, sulfate, amidosulfate, phosphate, hydrogen chloride or benzenesulfonate.

5. A process for producing the compound of formula

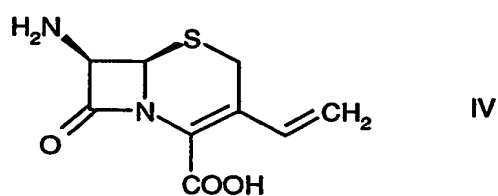


5 characterised in that

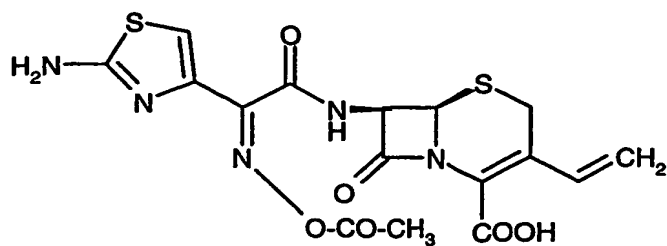
a) a reactive derivative of a compound of formula III



is reacted with the compound of formula IV



to obtain the compound of formula I



b) an acid HX, in which

X signifies  $\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{HSO}_4^-$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{NSO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}(\text{SO}_4)^{2-}$  or  $\text{R}_1\text{YO}_3^-$ ,

$\text{R}_1$  signifies alkyl or aryl and

Y is sulfur or phosphorous,

is added to the compound of formula I in order to obtain a crystalline salt of the compound of formula I with the acid HX,

c) the crystalline salt from step b) is isolated,

d) the compound of formula I in crystalline salt form from step c) is converted into cefdinir by cleaving the acetyl group on the oxygen of the oxime, and

e) cefdinir is isolated from the reaction mixture of step d).

6. A process according to claim 5, characterised in that *syn*-2-(2-aminothiazol-4-yl)-2-(methylcarbonyloxyimino)-acetic acid mercapto-benzothiazolylester is used as the reactive derivative of the compound of formula III.

7. Use of the compound of formula I in the form of a crystalline salt as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 for the production of cefdinir.

8. A bulk quantity of cefdinir having a purity of >99% by weight produced according to the process of claim 5 or 6.

9. A process for the production of *syn*-2-(2-aminothiazol-4-yl)-2-(methylcarbonyloxyimino)-acetic acid-mercaptobenzothiazolylester, wherein *syn*-2-(2-aminothiazol-4-yl)-2-(methylcarbonyloxyimino)-acetic acid is used as the tri-n-butylammonium salt.

10. A process for the production of *syn*-2-(2-aminothiazol-4-yl)-2-(methylcarbonyloxyimino)-acetic acid-mercaptobenzothiazolylester, wherein the compound of formula III is used in moist form.

11. A process according to claim 10, wherein the moist form contains up to 50% by weight water, e.g. 20 – 40% by weight water.
- 5 12. A compound of formula I in the form of a salt, optionally in crystalline form, wherein the salt is selected from the group consisting of phosphate, hydrogen phosphate, mesylate, tosylate, sulfate, hydrogen sulfate and sulfamate.
- 10 13. 7-[2-(2-aminothiazol-4-yl)-2-(methylcarbonyloxyimino)acetamido]-3-vinyl-cephem-4-carboxylic acid phosphate having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern substantially as that shown in Figure 1.
14. 7-[2-(2-Aminothiazol-4-yl)-2-(methylcarbonyloxyimino)acetamido]-3-vinyl-cephem-4-carboxylic acid hydrochloride having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern substantially as that shown in Figure 2.
- 15 15. 7-[2-(2-Aminothiazol-4-yl)-2-(methylcarbonyloxyimino)acetamido]-3-vinyl-cephem-4-carboxylic acid tosylate having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern substantially as that shown in Figure 3.
- 20 16. 7-[2-(2-Aminothiazol-4-yl)-2-(methylcarbonyloxyimino)acetamido]-3-vinyl-cephem-4-carboxylic acid hydrogensulfate having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern substantially as that shown in Figure 4.
- 25 17. 7-[2-(2-Aminothiazol-4-yl)-2-(methylcarbonyloxyimino)acetamido]-3-vinyl-cephem-4-carboxylic acid mesylate having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern substantially as that shown in Figure 5.
- 30 18. 7-[2-(2-Aminothiazol-4-yl)-2-(methylcarbonyloxyimino)acetamido]-3-vinyl-cephem-4-carboxylic acid sulfate having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern substantially as that shown in Figure 6.
19. A salt as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 18 in substantially pure form.